



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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DRINKING WATER MAY TEMPORARILY APPEAR CLOUDY FOR SOME **SFPUC PENINSULA AND EAST BAY CUSTOMERS**

Air Bubbles from Treatment of Local Reservoir Water May Cause Temporary Cloudiness, but Water Continues to Meet or Exceed All Water Quality Standards

San Francisco – As early as the week of December 28, drinking water for some San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) customers in portions of the Peninsula, South and East Bay may temporarily appear cloudy or milky-white in color when drawn from the tap. This temporary change is caused by a change in the distribution of the system's water and does not affect the quality of the drinking water.

The cloudy or milky-white appearance is due to tiny air bubbles in the water. Because of system construction, SFPUC customers will receive water from local reservoirs exclusively, and not Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The cloudy appearance will dissipate when Hetch Hetchy supplies reach the Bay Area after the completion of work around February 20, 2010.

The increased rate of flow from the SFPUC's Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant in the East Bay causes air to be mixed into the water, which in turn makes it look cloudy or milky. If the water is allowed to stand for a few minutes, the cloudiness will dissipate as the air bubbles rise to the surface and break apart.

The SFPUC's water continues to meet all state and federal regulatory requirements for water quality. This temporary change involves the appearance of the water only.

For Further Information: Please contact your local water provider or visit sfwater.org.

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